

Virginia HIV Community Planning Group Meeting Summary

Members Present: Odile Attiglah, Bill Briggs, Rhonda Callaham, Dr. Rosalyn Cousar, Gregory Fordham, Richard Hall, Robert Hewitt, Martha Lees, Elaine Martin, Ruth Royster, Edward Strickler

Members Absent: Dan Alvarez, Heather Bronson, Vontrida Custis, Hugo Delgado, Caroline Fuller, Diane Gaillard, Nicholas Mattsson, Bruce Taylor, Silvia Villacampa

Other Attendees: Stan Phillip, Jr., CDC Project Officer; Susan Carr, Kathleen Carter, Jennifer Flannagan, Elisabeth Honorat, Khalid Kheirallah, Ryland Roane, and Shelley Taylor-Donahue of the Virginia Department of Health; Melanie Rivers, Site Director of the Pennsylvania/Mid-Atlantic AETC of Virginia Commonwealth University

Total of 20 attendees

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Elaine Martin at 8:30 AM.

Old Business

- Foto-Novella – Addresses stigma and homophobia among Latinos in Virginia with the intent of increasing utilization of HIV testing and treatment among this population. Elaine reported that after commissioner approval was granted to proceed, actors were hired, the script was finalized and marketing testing was done in Northern Virginia. She expects the project to be ready by the end of April and will distribute copies at the May meeting. The Foto-novella will be available as a pdf on-line, in both English and Spanish, with a survey link to provide feedback.
- Whitman Walker's Northern Virginia Clinic (WWC) closing - The Northern Virginia Whitman Walker Clinic (in Arlington) is closing and will stop providing medical care on February 28, 2009. Susan Carr reported that INOVA Juniper has stepped up to take in over 90 former WWC clients. INOVA will also lease a site in Arlington across the street from WWC. WWC has made multiple attempts to locate its clients to let them know the situation. HIV Care staff have designed a flyer for clients to use to continue their services; the flyer (in both English and Spanish) has been sent to all ADAP providers in northern Virginia. For questions about finding medical care or other services for clients:

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Call the VDH HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Hotline at 1-800-533-4148 (toll free) 8am-5pm; e-mail the VDH HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Hotline at hiv-stdhotline@vdh.virginia.gov; or go to <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/index.htm> for an information sheet for clients about how to transition their care.

Elaine reported that VDH had three contracts with Whitman-Walker: Counseling and Testing (CHT), Minority AIDS Project (MAP), and Social Networking funded under the expanded HIV testing grant. MAP money was added to existing grants at NOVAM and K. I. Services. Counseling and testing money went to K. I. Services, which was next highest offeror.

- Statewide Ryan White All Grantee Meeting - The Virginia HIV/AIDS Resource and Consultation Center (VHARCC), in conjunction with VDH, is coordinating the 2nd annual Virginia Ryan White All Grantee Meeting on Friday, March 6th at the Holiday Inn Select Koger Center in Richmond. This year's conference will bring together individuals representing Ryan White programs from across the state, as well as PLWHA, health care providers, and key stakeholders in the community. Updates on federal and state Ryan White funding will be provided as well as topic-specific roundtable discussions, and breakout sessions in the following tracks: Clinical Issues, Case Management, and Advocacy. For more information &/or registration materials, please contact Megan Sweat at VHARCC (804) 828-1143.

New Business

- MSM Coordinated Internet Messages – These monthly internet messages contain HIV/STD education and testing information and promote upcoming events (e.g., circuit parties in April.) The next message will be about partner disclosure services. The concept was developed by Adam Thompson at ASG and NOVAM has implemented the messages on its Web site.
- HIV Prevention Leadership Summit – The leadership summit will now be held every other year; next HPLS is scheduled for 2010. Stan Phillip reported that this is due to a combination of funding and feedback.

Membership

- Robert Rigby has resigned due to personal reasons but he hopes to reapply in the future.
- Prevention and Care Planning Merger - Recruitment will begin this month to fill a number of vacancies and to ensure representation from individuals across the care and prevention spectrum. The revised application will be mailed to applicants who have applied during the past two years. Jennifer promoted membership for care representatives during her presentation at the February 11th Ryan White contractors meeting and she will be recruiting,

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especially for young people and transgenders, at the Ryan White All Grantee meeting on March 6.

The Scope of HIV/AIDS in Virginia/Update - Khalid Kheirallah

About 21,000 Virginians are known to be living with HIV/AIDS. This represents a continual increase over time as people are living longer with the disease and new infections are occurring at a relatively stable rate. For the past six years, the number of newly reported HIV/AIDS cases has also remained consistent. The discordance observed between HIV/AIDS reports and persons living with HIV signifies the increasing need to focus resources and ensure appropriate HIV surveillance, prevention and care-related services. It is estimated that about 50% or less of Virginians living with HIV/AIDS are not in care. In addition, estimates suggest that about 4,500 Virginians do not know that they are infected with HIV. The HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to have a disproportionate impact on certain populations, particularly racial and ethnic minorities and men who have sex with men (MSM). Among Virginians living with HIV/AIDS, 62% are Black, 26% are women, and 43% are MSM. Kathy Hafford, DDP Director, will present this information at the NASTAD 2009 Spring Executive Committee Meeting March 9-11th in DC. She will be discussing HIV prevention/care with Virginia's legislators. For more information, click on

http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/DAta/fact%20sheets/scope%20of%20HIVAIDS%20in%20Virginia_final.pdf.

Joint Prevention and Care Planning Discussion

Stan Phillip, CDC Project Officer, gave an overview of challenges experienced by other states (Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Vermont) that have combined prevention and care:

- Nebraska kept its subcommittees and this helped ease some of the tensions caused by the differing priorities. He advised the group to keep in mind that Virginia is unique from Nebraska, Kentucky, etc., but to be proactive and use some of the problems that have surfaced - what would we do if that happens here? He indicated that technical assistance from Nebraska and New Hampshire is available.
- Have the "goal" upfront at each meeting to reconfirm the objectives of the combined group; getting the inevitable questions answered upfront is critical.
- Talk with people at Ryan White meetings to clarify what the CPG is doing; it is the responsibility of CPG members to clarify what the new role of the CPG will be.
- Effective orientation and membership campaigns will fuel good discourse.
- Discuss funding issues upfront; because we're not merging two existing bodies, turf problems shouldn't be an issue.

- Concerning community planning guidance, proceed with updating the Comprehensive Plan; in the next 12 months, a new planning schedule may be issued by CDC.

Review of Membership Bylaws - Jennifer Flannagan

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the new bylaws. All were in favor.

2008 Compendium of Evidence-Based HIV Prevention Interventions - Jennifer Flannagan

CDC's recently published [*Updated Compendium of Evidence-Based Interventions*](#) offers eight additional evidence-based HIV prevention interventions. The new interventions include five best-evidence HIV behavioral interventions and three promising-evidence interventions. Four of the new interventions are for HIV-positive persons, including two brief, clinic-based interventions, two interventions for young, HIV-negative injection drug users, one for STD clinic patients, and one for African American fathers and their sons ages 11 to 14. Though the interventions are targeted to specific populations, most can be adapted for a variety of populations if the intervention's core elements are retained.

The *Updated Compendium* is the most comprehensive source for targeted and evidence-based HIV prevention interventions in the United States. These behavioral interventions have been rigorously tested and found to increase protective behaviors or reduce sexual or drug-related risk behaviors for acquiring HIV infection.

Five interventions VDH was most interested in are:

- [Healthy Living Project \(HLP\)](#)
- [Living in the Face of Trauma \(LIFT\)](#)
- [Positive Choice: Interactive Video Doctor](#)
- [Safe In The City](#)
- [Study to Reduce Intravenous Exposures \(STRIVE\)](#)

Promising-Evidence Interventions are:

- [Drug Users Intervention Trial \(DUI\)](#)
- [Options/Opciones Project](#)
- [Responsible, Empowered, Aware, Living Men \(REAL Men\)](#)

NASTAD Advisory Committee Update - Jennifer Flannagan

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Ruth Royster of ACCESS, Vendetta Reynolds of IBWC, and Marquietta Alston and Jennifer Flannagan of VDH will attend a forum hosted by NASTAD, in conjunction with the Southern AIDS Coalition, on March 23-25th in New Orleans. The goal of the meeting, entitled *Black Women and HIV/AIDS: Confronting the Crisis and Planning for Action*, is to strengthen the ability of health departments and their partners to effectively implement HIV/AIDS programs targeting Black women. Reverend Patricia Gould-Champ of Faith Community Baptist Church will attend as a speaker. NASTAD will be covering all expenses.

Report on New Grantees – Comprehensive HIV Services & Linkages for Inmates (CHARLI) – Elaine Martin and Jennifer Flannagan

DDP has awarded funds to four agencies under the CHARLI program, a major collaboration between HIV care and prevention which will expand upon current efforts such as the Seamless Transition Program. The purpose of CHARLI is to provide a continuum of services across the HIV prevention and care spectrum for incarcerated persons, prior to and following release. Grantees will provide pre-release HIV prevention education and HIV testing, discharge planning for HIV-infected persons, case management, adherence counseling, case finding and primary HIV prevention services for HIV-infected persons following their release from prisons, jails, detention centers, etc. Funds were awarded to AIDS/HIV Services Group, Fan Free Clinic, Health and Home Support Services and K.I. Services. A new Request for Proposals totaling will be released later this year for Southwest region, which is where the majority of Virginia's correctional facilities are located. This will bring the total grant funding to \$600,000. Elaine indicated that if future federal ADAP funding becomes insufficient, these funds would be redirected to ADAP.

Discussion of HIV Infection Among Young Black Men Who Have Sex with Men - Elaine Martin

CDC's MMWR, dated February 6, 2009, reported that in November 2007 (by the Mississippi State Department of Health) an increase in the number of young black MSM who received diagnoses of HIV infection at an STD clinic in Jackson, Mississippi. More new AIDS cases among black MSM were diagnosed in the South than in all other U.S. census regions combined. Stigma continues to be a huge block. Elaine reported that VDH is seeing the same data in Virginia as in Mississippi. Stan Phillip indicated that it is hard to isolate a single factor, one possibility being that AIDS isn't necessarily fatal anymore.

2009 Gay Men's Health Agenda - Ed Strickler

Ed distributed information that is intended to go before Congress and made a proposal for the CPG to develop written endorsement. Because specific

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legislation is mentioned in the article, Elaine explained that the CPG cannot endorse the agenda. However, she indicated that individual members can endorse it. Ed urged members to take the Gay Men's Health Agenda back to their communities to drum up support.

HIV Prevention/Care Co-Chair- Small Group Discussion

Terms of co-chairs will be voted on after the new members come on board in May. The committee broke into three groups to discuss what is needed in a care co-chair and prevention co-chair. Elaine's role as health department co-chair will remain static. Elaine felt that the care chair be a standing member because the person needs to have had experience working with the committee. It was suggested to extend Rosalyn Cousar's tenure, which ends in May, for another year (from May 2009 to May 2010) as the interim care co-chair and have the election of prevention co-chair in May 2009 (term will be from May 2009-May 2011). The election of the care co-chair will take place in May 2010; next prevention co-chair would be in May 2011. Consensus was reached to follow this timeline.

MSM Advisory Committee Update – Jennifer Flannagan

Christopher Lane will begin work as the project coordinator on March 13th. He will work 20 hours per week through the end of 2009 out of his office in DC. The first advisory committee meeting is scheduled for March 17th. CPG members are welcome to serve. Money will be added to MSM contacts to identify and recruit young (ages 16-23) MSM to get involved with disseminating the surveys and interviews. Jennifer will keep the CPG involved in process, data will be part of the comprehensive plan, and she may use interested eligible clients in the CHARLI program. In closing, Jennifer announced the upcoming Gay Black Men's Health Summit in Richmond at Club Colors on March 6 (Saturday); Ryland Roane and Ted Heck of VDH will attend.

Overview of *d-up: Defend Yourself!* - Ryland Roane

d-up! is a community-level HIV prevention intervention for and developed by Black MSM. It promotes social norms of condom use and helps Black MSM recognize and handle risk related racial and sexual bias. "Brothers Keeping Brothers Safe" is the motto and the goal is to change the way the MSM community protects its members, ultimately creating an environment where all can be comfortable saying "no" to having unprotected sex. Ryland attended the *d-Up: Defend Yourself! Training of Facilitators* (TOF) last December in Washington, DC. The four-day training focused on skills in providing technical assistance and conducting quality assurance activities to ensure that the intervention will be delivered with integrity by VDH contractors for the Minority AIDS Program. In May, Mr. Roane will attend *d-up: Defend Yourself! Training of Trainers* (TOT) in Atlanta. The purpose of the TOT is to train participants on how to

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facilitate the *d-up!* TOF. Elaine expressed a desire to get some CBOs to get this training because the MSM RFP will be going out in October 2009.

Review of the January meeting summary

A motion was made to approve the January minutes as written.

Planning for the April 16, 2009 meeting

- *Safe in the City* video
- selection of new members
- planning for May agenda and orientation topics
- printed Foto-novella
- Chauntele & Ted to present POL TOT information
- Marquietta to present on the NASTAD meeting in New Orleans

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Elaine Martin, Health Department Co-Chair

Date

Kathleen Carter, Recording Secretary

Date